

MSHA Safety Alert

Mobile Bridge Conveyors

Within the last three weeks, one miner was fatally injured and another miner seriously injured when they were crushed between a mobile bridge conveyors (aka bridges) and the coal rib, during the mining process. This MSHA Safety Alert is to remind the mining industry of the hazards associated with the operation of mobile bridge conveyors (MBC).

All bridge operators shall be adequately trained on the safe operation and functionality of their equipment. MBC operators must verify safe start and stop sequences of bridges and attached continuous mining machines (CMM). These sequences must prevent hazardous inadvertent movement. Start/Stop sequences should be predetermined for safe operation. Miners that work around equipment shall be trained on hazards and protective measures of the equipment.



BEST PRACTICES

- Stay out of Red Zones when bridges or CMMs are energized.
- Always communicate with other bridge operators before tramming the system.
- Know how your machine operates including Start/Stop sequences.
- Install an audible and visible alarm circuit along the MBC to warn miners before tramming.
- Install and maintain man-in-position switches on MBC to deenergize the entire system when a miner leaves the confines of the operator's position.
- Activate the panic bar (emergency stop switch) the moment a hazard is recognized and any time before exiting the operator's position.

See PIB No. P11-16 for information on man-in position switches.

<https://arlweb.msha.gov/regs/complian/PIB/2011/pib11-16.pdf>



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